

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05193 171048Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
----- 121600
R 170931Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2142

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FOR NEA - DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EGEN, EC

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL TIMES SYMPOSIUM

1. I HAVE RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AS GUEST SPEAKER AT JUNE 7 OPENING DAY DINNER OF FINANCIAL TIMES - AL AKBAR SYMPOSIUM "THE MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE". LIST OF PARTICIPANTS INCLUDES MINISTER OF HOUSING OSMAN, MINECON SHAFEL, MININDSUTRY SHAHEN, AND SELECTION OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES INCLUDING CHARLES HOSTLER OF COMMERCE. LATTER IS REPORTEDLY REPRESENTING SECRETARY RICHARDSON, WHO WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND. DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON SYMPOSIUM THAN IS AVAILABLE HERE, BUT IT APPEARS THAT SPEAKERS AND SUBJECTS ARE STILL TENTATIVE.

2. THERE ARE GOOD REASONS BOTH FOR AND AGAINST ACCEPTING THE INVITATION, BUT FOR THE PRESENT I TEND TO BELIEVE THAT I SHOULD DECLINE. IN ADDITION TO SOME QUESTION AS TO WHAT WILL BE LEFT FOR ME TO SAY, GIVEN OTHER REPRESENTATION, I WONDER IF OUR ROLE HERE IS REALLY SUITABLE AS THE SUBJECT OF A TALK AT SUCH A FUNCTION. FURTHER, I AM NOT SURE IT WOULD BE ALTOGETHER WISE TO PUT MYSELF IN A POSITION WHERE I MIGHT HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE SENSITIVE PROBLEM OF THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND WHY THERE HAVE BEEN SO FEW PROJECTS WITH US COMPANY PARTICIPATION (OR ANY OTHER).

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3. I STILL HAVE AN OPEN MIND ON THE SUBJECT, AND
WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AND THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT.
EILTS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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